

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4209

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9768

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CHATCHAI ON KMT FORECES IN THAILAND

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTHHAYA
AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD
A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 7. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIALS
USIS TRANSLATION OF CHATCHAI'S COMMENTS ON KMT FORCES
IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN REGARDING THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE KMT 93RD ARMY?

CHATCHAI: I WILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A RATHER LENGTLY
EXPLANATION ON THAT SUBJECT. THE KMT 93RD ARMY ENTERED
THAILAND DURING WORLD WAR II, AT THE TIME WHEN JAPAN
ENTERED THAILAND ON DECEMBER 8. AT THAT TIME BRITISH
AND INDIAN TROOPS STATIONED IN THE SHAN STATES HAD BEEN
COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN. THIA TROPPTS ENTERED THE SHAN
STATES AND CLASHES BROKE OUT, MAINLY WITH THE KMT 93RD
ARMY. WHICH HAD CROSSED THE BORDER FROM YUNNAN INTO THE
SHAN STATES. I WAS STATIONED THERE FOUR YEARS DURING
WORLD WAR II, AND THAT IS WHY I KNOW THE SITUATION AT
THAT TIME WELL. THEY WERE THE FIRST UNITS OF THE KMT
WHO ENTERED THE SHAN STATES DURING WORLD WAR II. LATER,
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AFTER THE END OF WARLD WAR II AND WHEN MAO TSE-TUNG WAS IN

POER, KMT TROOPS WITHDREW FROM YUNNAN INTO THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE SHAN STATES, ADJOINING THAILAND. THIS WAS THE SECOND GROUP OF KMT TROOPS. A THIRD GROUP CAME LATER, AND SECRETLY I BELIEVE. THAILAND, AND ESPECIALLY OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FELT GRAVE CONCERN OVER THEIR PRESENCE AND EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO SUPERVISE THESE KMT TROOPS AND KEEP THEM IN AREAS RESERVED FOR THEM. FINALLY IN 1954. THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEM WITHDRAWN. I WAS HEAD OF THE THAI DELEGATION WHICH SUPERVISED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ABOUT 7,000 OF THESE KMT TROOPS. IT WAS ONLY DURING MORE RECENT TIMES THAT I HEARD THAT THEY ARE HERE IN A GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER. IF THEY ARE REALLY TROOPS DATING BACK TO THAT TIME THEY SHOULD BE OLD MEN NOW-- ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE NOT AT ALL HAPPY OVER THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS IN THAILAND. THEREFORE ... SINCE WE HAVE NO THAI WATCHMEN YET WE SHOULD KEEP INDIAN WATCHMEN ON FOR THE TIME BEING.

KINTNER

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